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-----MEDIA RELEASE-----

MAYOR PEREZ SAYS HARTFORD IS NOW A "CONVENTION CITY"

(June 2, 2005)--- Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez says the opening of the Connecticut Convention Center today means "Adriaen has landed!" Mayor Perez referred to the Dutch trader Adriaen Block, who founded Hartford. Today, the fort that was called the "House of Hope" is now a "convention center of opportunity".

The Mayor, Governor M. Jodi Rell, and U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd were on hand with other state, city, business, and community officials for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Hartford landmark--- built with significant participation by minority contractors and Hartford residents.

Adriaen's Landing is, as Mayor Perez says, only "a part of the puzzle" in the revitalization of Hartford--- that includes \$1 billion in investments since 1999 in housing construction, Rentschler Field, Capital Community College, and renovations of the Hartford Civic Center. He adds, "What the Convention Center will do is put more feet on the streets of Hartford and entice people to add an extra day or two to their stay in the City. This way, they can further explore all the diverse cultural and historical venues, as well as enjoy our shops and restaurants. We want people to not only visit Downtown, but our adjacent neighborhoods as well."